

Serial No. 09/855,148
Docket No. NEC 142491
Amendment D

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claim 5, and amend claims 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

forming a deformable seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacers having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to perform fabricate an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel due to a difference between said atmosphere pressure and a negative pressure inside said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to a volume of said liquid crystal, ~~wherein said first spacer is elastically deformable at first from an~~

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Serial No. 09/855,148
Docket No. NEC 142491
Amendment D

~~initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap prior to that a gap at said seal member is reached to said appropriate cell gap.~~

wherein at least one of said first spacers is elastically deformed from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap before said seal member is deformed to said appropriate cell gap, and

wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range of 102.9% to 107.0%.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 2, wherein said seal member contains second spacers mixed therein, said second spacers being formed of a material, which is hardly deformed when it is pinched between said transparent substrates under atmospheric pressure.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first spacers are deformed to the size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim [[5]] 2, wherein the relative value is $(105 \pm 2)\%$.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

forming a deformable seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

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Amendment D

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacers having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to perform fabricate an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel without hardening said seal member, wherein excessive deformation of said panel due to atmospheric pressure is prevented by compressive stress of spacers located at a central region of said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to a volume of said liquid crystal, wherein ~~said first spacers are elastically deformable at first from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap prior to that a gap at said seal member is reached to said appropriate cell gap, and said seal member contains second spacers mixed therein, said second spacers being formed of a material, which is hardly deformed when it is pinched between said transparent substrates under atmospheric pressure.~~

wherein at least one of said first spacers are elastically deformed from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap before said seal member is deformed to said appropriate cell gap, and said seal member contains second spacers mixed therein, said second spacers being formed of a material, which is hardly deformed when it is pinched between said transparent substrates under atmospheric pressure, and

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Docket No. NEC 142491
Amendment D

wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range of 102.9% to 107.0%.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

forming a deformable seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacer having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to perform fabricate an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel without hardening said seal member, wherein excessive deformation of said panel due to atmospheric pressure is prevented by compressive stress of spacers located at a central region of said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to a volume of said liquid crystal, wherein ~~said first spacer is elastically deformable at first from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap prior to that a gap at said seal member is reached to said appropriate cell gap, and said first spacer is deformed to the size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap.~~

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Serial No. 09/855,148
Docket No. NEC 142491
Amendment D

wherein at least one of said first spacers is elastically deformed from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap before said seal member is deformed to said appropriate cell gap, and said first spacer is deformed to the size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap, and

wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range of 102.9% to 107.0%.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

forming a deformable seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacer having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to perform fabricate an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber without hardening said seal member;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers together with said liquid crystal through a deformation of said panel such that said deformation of said panel proceeds in a center portion of said panel at higher speed than that in a peripheral portion thereof due to a difference between atmospheric pressure and a negative pressure inside said panel, wherein said first spacers located at a central portion of said panel is deformed firstly

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Docket No. NEC 142491
Amendment D

together with said liquid crystal to provide an appropriate cell gap prior to ~~that~~ a gap at said seal member being deformed is reached to said appropriate cell gap; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to a volume of said liquid crystal[.], and

wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range of 102.9% to 107.0%.

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